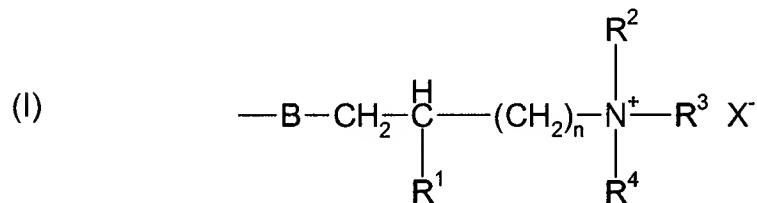


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A paper comprising a filler content of above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper and a cellulose ether, said cellulose ether having a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.
2. (currently amended) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 is H or OH, R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are the same or different and are selected from C_1 - C_{24} alkyl, C_6 - C_{24} aryl, C_7 - C_{24} aralkyl, C_7 - C_{24} alkaryl, C_3 - C_{24} cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_{24} alkoxyalkyl, and C_7 - C_{24} alkoxyaryl groups, or R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, $OC(O)$, $C(O)O$, $C(O)-NH$, $NHC(O)$, S, OSO_3 , OPO_3 , NH, or NR^5 , wherein R^5 is a C_2 - C_6 acyl or a C_1 - C_4 alkyl radical, and X^- is an anion.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

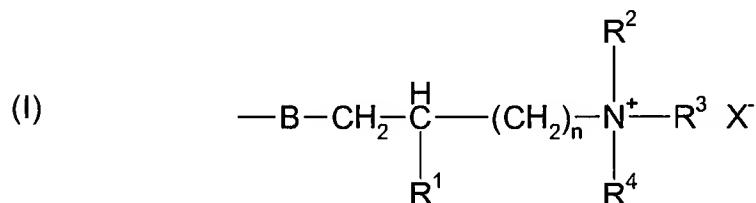
5. (currently amended) A paper coating comprising cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04 and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The paper coating according to claim 5 wherein said cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.

9. (currently amended) The paper coating according to claim 8 wherein the quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein R¹ is H or OH, R², R³, and R⁴ are the same or different and are selected from C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, C₆-C₂₄ aryl, C₇-C₂₄ aralkyl, C₇-C₂₄ alkaryl, C₃-C₂₄ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₂₄ alkoxyalkyl, and C₇-C₂₄ alkoxyaryl groups, or R², R³, R⁴, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C₂-C₆ acyl or a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A method of making paper comprising:

adding ~~at~~ the cellulose ether of claim 1 to an aqueous paper stock;

~~wherein said cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7, a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0, and a net charge in the range of from -0.7 to -0.04, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose and wherein the cellulose ether is soluble in water;~~

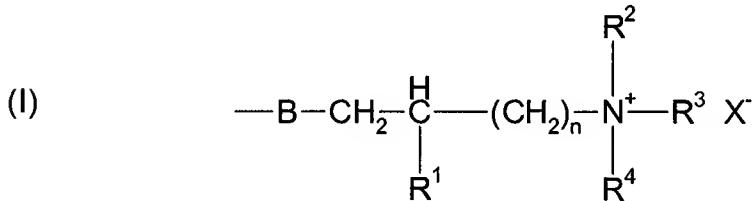
adding a filler to said stock;

removing water from said stock; and

drying said stock;

wherein the paper has a filler content above 20 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said quaternary ammonium groups are represented by the formula:



wherein R¹ is H or OH, R², R³, and R⁴ are the same or different and are selected from C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, C₆-C₂₄ aryl, C₇-C₂₄ aralkyl, C₇-C₂₄ alkaryl, C₃-C₂₄ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₂₄ alkoxyalkyl, and C₇-C₂₄ alkoxyaryl groups, or R², R³, R⁴, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C₂-C₆ acyl or a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

14. (New) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.

15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the paper has a filler content above 25 wt% based on the total weight of the paper.